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Message Text

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42
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-05

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PM-03 L-02 ACDA-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 NIC-01

OMB-01 FEAE-00 /064 W
---------- 077427
P R 041530Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6503
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USEC BRUSSELS 884
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN
7206TH AIR BASE GRP
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8663

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, GR
SUBJECT: LABOR: STRIKE CALL AT AMERICAN AIR BASE ATHENS
TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

REF: ATHENS 8637

1. AS RESULT OF MEETING EVENING DECEMBER 3 AT ASSOCIATION OF
EDITORS OF ATHENS DAILY NEWSPAPERS (REFTEL, LEADERSHIP OF UNION
OF EMPLOYEES OF U.S. FORCES RECOMMENDED TO ITS MEMBERS THAT RENEWAL
OF STRIKE AT AMERICAN AIR BASE ATHENS BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED
IN ORDER TO GIVE TIME AND OPPORTUNITY "TO THE AMERICANS AND THE
(GREEK) GOVERNMENT" TO PROCEED TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT
OF GREEK PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY U.S. FORCES. UNION LEADERSHIP ALSO
DENOUNCED STAND OF MANAGEMENT AS IRRECONCILABLE AND REPEATED ITS
DEMANDS THAT IT COMPLY WITH GREEK LABOR LEGISLATION.

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2. FIVE MEMBERS OF THE NEWLY-ELECTED GREEK PARLIAMENT ATTENDED

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THE MEETING - TWO FROM NEA DEMOKRATIA (BASSOS VASSILIOU AND NIKOS FIKIORIS), TWO FROM CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES (VIRGINIA TSOUDEROU AND GEORGE MANGAKIS) AND ONE FROM PASOK (NICOLAS YANNOPOULOS). TO GREATER OR LESSER DEGREE ALL PLEDGED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH EMPLOYEES AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT UNION GRIEVANCES.

3. WHILE MAJORITY GREEK NEWSPAPERS CARRIED REPORT OF MEETING, TREATMENT WAS RELATIVELY OBJECTIVE. HAVING SUCCEEDED IN GAINING ATTENTION OF SOME DEPUTIES AND ENLISTING THEIR SUPPORT, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT UNION LEADERSHIP WISHES FOR ITS PART NOW TO DEMONSTRATE "SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY" IN NOT ISSUING IMMEDIATE STRIKE CALL.

4. ON ANOTHER FRONT, A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR STRIKE OF EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC POWER CORPORATION HAS BEEN CALLED COMMENCING 0700 HOURS ON DECEMBER 5. GRIEVANCE CONCERNS CERTAIN WORK REGULATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN CONSTRUED AS "ANTI-LABOR" AND THAT HAVE BEEN SOURCE OF CONTENTION FOR MORE THAN A YEAR. PROVISION OF POWER TO ATHENS SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED SINCE GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS DEMAND THAT SUFFICIENT PERSONNEL BE LEFT ON JOB TO PROVIDE NORMAL POWER NEEDS OF URBAN AREA.
STEARNS

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